- 12. In coordination with regional ERP actions improve flood control through levee improvements, levee setbacks, channel dredging, and flood plain restoration (yr 1-7).
- 13. Evaluate the feasibility of recirculating water pumped from the Delta by the CVP and SWP. If feasible, and consistent with CALFED ecosystem restoration goals and objectives, implement a pilot program (yr 1-4).

North Delta Improvements - North Delta Improvements consist of methods to address flood control, water quality, fisheries, and water supply reliability concerns. Actions include modification of the Delta Cross Channel operational criteria, channel dredging and/or setback levees in the Mokelumne River, and creation of additional floodplain, wildlife, and fisheries habitat. A screened diversion at Hood will be evaluated and may be implemented if necessary.

- 1. Develop operational criteria for the Delta Cross Channel that balances flood control, water quality, water supply reliability and fisheries concerns (yr 1-4).
- 2. Study and evaluate a screened diversion structure on the Sacramento River (or equivalent water quality actions) as a measure to improve drinking water quality in the event that the Water Quality Program measures do not result in adequate improvements toward CALFED's drinking water quality goals. This evaluation would consider how to operate the Delta Cross Channel in conjunction with this new diversion structure to improve drinking water quality, while maintaining fish recovery (yr 1-4).
- 3. If the Water Quality Program measures are consistently not achieving drinking water quality goals, and the evaluation demonstrates that a screened diversion of up to 4000 cfs would help achieve those goals without adversely affecting fish populations; a pilot screened diversion would be constructed. This pilot would likely include a fish screen, pumps and a channel between the Sacramento and Mokelumne River. The design, size and operating rules for this pilot facility would allow for analyses of impacts to upstream and downstream migrating fish as well as impacts from habitat shifts resulting from increased flows in the eastern Delta on Delta species. Following evaluation of the pilot facility operations, a final decision would be made on whether the diversion channel and structure should continue to be used, and if so, what the operational rules and optimum size of the diversion should be (yr 5-7+).
- 4. Evaluate opportunities to resolve local flood concerns and create tidal wetlands and riparian habitats by constructing new setback levees, improving existing levees, and dredging channels in the north Delta, especially the channels of the lower Mokelumne River system. Any proposed channel modification would be consistent with CALFED's current direction on Delta conveyance. This evaluation would carefully coordinate ecosystem restoration, regional flood

- control, levee system integrity, and conveyance issues and concerns to ensure that a balanced solution to all concerns would be proposed. (yr 3-7).
- 5. Balance the above actions to address water quality, flood control, water supply reliability, and fisheries concerns (yr 1-7).

Isolated Facility Component - The isolated facility component of a dual transfer Delta facility would consist of a new canal or pipeline connecting the Sacramento River in the northern Delta to the SWP and CVP export facilities in the southern Delta. A process for determining the conditions under which any additional conveyance facilities and/or other water management actions would be taken in the future would include:

- 1. An evaluation of how water suppliers can best provide a level of public health protection equivalent to Delta source water quality of 50 ppb bromide and 3 ppm TOC (yr 1-7). This will include an equivalent level of investigation and studies on all of the actions which could be used to achieve CALFED's targets.
- 2. An evaluation based on two independent expert panels' reports—one on CALFED's progress toward these measurable water quality goals and the second on CALFED's progress toward ecosystem restoration objectives, with particular emphasis on fisheries recovery (yr 6-7).

## **Assurances and Institutional Arrangements**

An assurances package is a set of actions and mechanisms to assure that the Program will be implemented and operated as agreed. The assurances package will include items to be adopted immediately as well as a contingency process to address situations where a part of the plan cannot be implemented as agreed. While the principles for the assurances package will be substantially complete by the ROD, many details remain to be finalized early in Phase III.

- 1. Implement the interim governance structure at the time of the ROD. The interim structure and functions will continue until the long-term structure is in place (yr 1-3)
- 2. Initiate actions to implement the long-term governance structure for CALFED (yr 1-3). By the time of the ROD a long-term governance structure will be proposed. New federal or state legislation is expected to be needed to clarify/modify existing agency authorities and/or possibly to establish new entities for program oversight and implementation.
- 3. Implement the contingency response process (yr 1-7).
- 4. Tiering from the Multi-Species Conservation Strategy, begin to develop the project specific restoration, avoidance, and mitigation measures necessary to